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1970/02/20

(76)

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Department of State

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SUBJECT: Sino-US Talks

Approved by: E. John Kelly Jr.

Date: 4-16-70

1. While we will not attempt change pattern at today's meeting, we believe it would be useful to break away from past numerical serializing of our meetings with Chinese. High numbers we have now reached conveys image of long sterility and of continuation of patterns from past into ~~present~~ present and future which inconsistent with new effort we are now attempting project. There is certain usefulness for internal US administrative purposes in identifying meeting by number but this can as easily be done by date. Furthermore, to drop numbered series will provide greater US flexibility in future in dealing with unnumbered, semi-formal or informal meetings.

2. In my press statement after January 20 meeting I did not mention number of meeting and I will not do so this

DRAFTED BY:

PHK/berg/afm

DRAFTING DATE

2/20/70

TEL. EXT.

APPROVED BY:

Walter J. Stoessel, Jr.

CLEARANCES:

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time. I note that Chinese announcement of last meeting did describe it as 135th and I assume they will continue numbering in their announcement this time, and we may as well follow ~~modem~~ if asked by press. Nevertheless request approval for ~~KRM~~ Kreisberg to suggest to Chinese ^{February} at ~~January~~ 21 informal meeting that numbering practice be discontinued and henceforth that both sides simply identify meetings by date.

GP-1.

STOESSEL

